It was the same story when it came to waders – "Black-winged Stilts – red-coloured daddy-long-legs, Black-tailed Godwit - observe the long bill with a black tip and black tail, Little Ringed Plover, see the rings on the chest," and many more. It was extremely educative and interesting.

There was excitement in the air as 5 Spot-billed Pelicans circled majestically overhead, followed by a flock of Eurasian Openbills in formation, but both decided not to land and disappeared from the scene.

Asif in action! (Photo: Vikram Reddy)

We spent considerable time observing the birds and also photographing them from various angles. Asif was a sight to see - creeping on his belly to get a closer shot!

Photo: Vikram Reddy

Time just flew and we realized that it was past 11:30 and the sun was really hot. We therefore decided, rather reluctantly, to head for the guesthouse premises, where we spread ourselves under a shady tree to do justice to our famished stomachs. After a hearty brunch, we all headed home, with a very memorable birding trip behind us.

Nature Orientation Program by Asian Wildlife Foundation

Text: S. Ashok Kumar, Photos: Ram Rudra

Asian Wildlife Foundation, Hyderabad, organized a Nature Orientation Programme from 12 – 14 February, 2010, at Valamur Tented Camp, Rampachodavaram Mandal, East Godavari District, for the students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. The main activities of the programme were nature treks in the moist, deciduous forests, visits to coffee and medicinal plantations, and a PowerPoint presentation on the Biodiversity of Andhra Pradesh.

Ultramarine Flycatcher

During the bird watching trips into the nearby forest, Ram Rudra, an Engineering student, who was the resource person, identified the beautifully coloured Ultramarine Flycatcher, a rare sight in the Eastern Ghats. Apart from several local birds, the Malabar Trogon and the Black-capped Kingfisher were also sighted.

Malabar Trogon